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# THE KABUL TIMES

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## Commission Reviews Urban Development, State Enterprise

KABUL: The meeting of the Administrative Commission was held under the chairmanship of Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, to review issues of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and state-owned enterprises.

Arg said in a statement the other day that the committee members presented updates on their recent activities and the implementation of assigned responsibilities before the commission conducted a comprehensive review of agenda items concerning urban development and government-owned companies.

Following detailed discussions, the commission adopted several decisions on the matters under consideration.

It also assigned specific responsibilities to the relevant committees to conduct further technical assessments and detailed evaluations of selected agenda items to support informed decision-making and strengthen administrative coordination.

**The Kabul Times**

## No ISIS-K in Afghanistan, Mujahid Says

KABUL: Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has said that ISIS-K has been completely suppressed in Afghanistan and no longer maintains a physical presence in the country.

Speaking to TOLOnews, Mujahid said the Islamic Emirate exercises full control across Afghanistan and that neighboring and regional countries should have no concerns regarding security threats originating from Afghan territory. His remarks came in response to recent comments by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who expressed Moscow's continued concern over the presence and expansion of ISIS-K in Afghanistan. Mujahid rejected those concerns, stating that the Islamic Emirate has effectively eliminated the group's operational presence and continues to maintain nationwide security.

**The Kabul Times**

## Farahi Highlights Journalism's Role in Public Awareness, Professionalism

KABUL: Mawlavi Mohajer Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, has underscored the vital role of journalism in promoting public awareness, strengthening professional media standards, and preserving Afghanistan's cultural and intellectual values, calling on journalists to uphold truth, professionalism, and social responsibility in serving the nation.

Addressing a one-day capacity-building seminar for journalists, media officials, and young participants in Bamyan Province, Farahi underscored the media's responsibility in providing accurate information, countering ideological warfare, and promoting Afghanistan's cultural identity, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.

He encouraged journalists to professionally reflect the Islamic Emirate's achievements across various sectors and contribute to raising public awareness.

Participants also received presentations on journalistic ethics, media responsibilities, and the importance of professional reporting.

Officials said the media sector has experienced notable growth in recent years, with dozens of new outlets beginning operations and additional efforts being made to address journalists' concerns and recommendations.

Speakers urged journalists to uphold truth, observe Islamic media principles, and carry out their professional responsibilities with integrity while contributing to social cohesion and informed public discourse.

Participants welcomed the seminar and called for similar training programs to continue to further strengthen the professional and intellectual capacities of journalists and young media practitioners.

**The Kabul Times**

## Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan Agree to Establish Trilateral Transport Corridor

KABUL: Afghanistan, Iran, and Tajikistan have reached an agreement to establish a trilateral road transport corridor aimed at expanding regional transit cooperation and strengthening trade connectivity among the three countries, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation said in a statement the other day.

The agreement was reached during a trilateral meeting of transport officials from the three countries held in Mashhad, Iran, where all sides discussed ways to enhance transportation links, facilitate trade movement, and develop regional transit cooperation, the statement said.

According to the statement, under the agreement, commercial cargo between Iran and Tajikistan will be transported and transited through Afghanistan, creating new opportunities for Afghanistan to play a key role as a regional transit hub.

"The establishment of the corridor would help improve economic cooperation among the three countries, facilitate the movement of goods, and contribute to the expansion of regional trade networks," the statement said.

The initiative comes as Afghanistan continues efforts to strengthen its position as a central bridge connecting Central Asia with South Asia and the Middle East through expanded transport and transit partnerships.

**The Kabul Times**

## Over 1,400 Afghan Prisoners Released from Pakistani Jails Return Home

KABUL: A total of 1,416 Afghan citizens who had been detained in Pakistan were released and returned to Afghanistan during the past week, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said in a statement the other day.

According to the statement, the returnees included both families and individuals who had been detained by Pakistani authorities for various reasons, and of those released, 1,083 people entered Afghanistan through the Torkham border crossing, while another 333 returned via Spin Boldak. The ministry said the returnees received humanitarian assistance upon arrival before being transported to their home provinces. It added that efforts to assist returning Afghan nationals and facilitate their reintegration into their communities are continuing.**The Kabul Times**

## Mullah Tarabi Calls for Greater Focus on Disaster Prevention Projects

KABUL: The Director General of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, has emphasized the need to prioritize preventive and infrastructure-based disaster management projects during a meeting with Mia Park, Head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the meeting, Turabi stressed the importance of accurately surveying and identifying disaster-prone areas to ensure that future development projects effectively reduce risks and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities, according to a statement from the authority the other day.

He said preventive measures and infrastructure projects should remain central to efforts aimed at minimizing the impact of natural disasters across the country.

Meanwhile, the IOM representative reaffirmed the organization's commitment to working closely with the National Disaster Management Authority and assured that future disaster management and risk reduction projects would be implemented in coordination with the relevant Afghan authorities.

**The Kabul Times**

## Islamic Emirate committed to implementing Islamic Sharia, Minister

*He stressed that officials, scholars, and community leaders now share the responsibility of strengthening unity and working together to fulfill this common obligation.*

KABUL: Shaikh Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, the Minister for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, has reaffirmed the Islamic Emirate's commitment to implementing Islamic law, saying the government will not retreat from its religious responsibilities despite what he described as negative propaganda. Speaking during a meeting with government officials, religious scholars, tribal elders, and representatives from the central zone provinces in Kabul, Hanafi said the necessary conditions for implementing Sharia and Islamic laws had already been established across the country, RTA reported the other day.

He stressed that officials, scholars, and community leaders now share the responsibility of strengthening unity and working together to fulfill this common obligation.

Hanafi also urged participants not to allow outside interference in Afghanistan's affairs and encouraged elders and young people to continue working together to address the country's long-standing social challenges.

The minister said the sacrifices made by the Afghan people were aimed at establishing Islamic law and called on all segments of society to remain united in achieving that shared objective.

**The Kabul Times**

## Work Begins on Hospital in Khost, Public Health Ministry Says

KABUL: Deputy Minister of Public Health Mawlavi Abdul Wali Haqqani has laid the foundation stone for a 50-million-Afghani public hospital in Tanai district of Khost Province, describing the project as a major step toward improving access to quality healthcare services in remote communities.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by provincial health officials, local government representatives, community elders, and members of the deputy minister's delegation, the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The hospital will be built on five jeribs of land and is expected to be completed and opened within 14 to 18 months, the statement said.

Addressing the gathering, Haqqani said the new hospital would expand access to essential healthcare services, help meet the primary medical needs of residents, and improve the quality of healthcare available in the district.

He noted that projects of this kind play an important role in providing timely and standard medical treatment to people living in remote areas who often face difficulties accessing health facilities.

The deputy minister reaffirmed the Ministry of Public Health's commitment to ensuring fair and quality healthcare services across Afghanistan, adding that the ministry would continue strengthening treatment standards and expanding healthcare infrastructure to improve medical services nationwide.

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**Food for thought**

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# Afghanistan's Fuel Crisis Demands Urgent Government Action

Afghanistan is once again facing a sharp surge in fuel prices, a development that has shaken households and strained livelihoods across the country.

In the country's capital Kabul and other provinces, the cost of oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has risen to unprecedented levels, leaving ordinary citizens struggling to cope.

In just one day, the price of LPG jumped from 64 afghanis to as high as 80 afghanis per kilogram. For a laborer earning only 300 afghanis daily, this increase is devastating. It forces families to make impossible choices between fuel, food, and other basic necessities. Transportation fares have also climbed, compounding the burden on those already living on the edge of poverty.

The government's official price list sets petrol at 79 afghanis per liter, diesel at 73 afghanis, and LPG at 74 afghanis per kilogram. Yet in practice, market rates often exceed these figures as if prices ocontinue to rise, many drivers will be unable to sustain their work, further deepening unemployment and economic hardship.

Authorities insist that measures are being taken to stabilize the market. The state-owned Oil and Gas Company has announced the arrival of 1,000 tons of LPG and over 1,200 rail wagons and tanker trucks carrying petroleum products. It has also begun releasing reserves at lower-than-market rates, selling LPG in Kabul at 66 afghanis per kilogram. Meanwhile, the Oil and Gas Importers' Union points to large-scale imports from Iran and Central Asia. Despite these efforts, however, prices remain volatile.

Long-term solution lies in building strategic reserves of fuel and food supplies. Without such planning, Afghanistan will remain vulnerable to regional disruptions and global market shocks. Strengthening reserves would not only stabilize prices but also provide a safety net during crises.

But the immediate reality cannot be ignored. Citizens are suffering under the weight of soaring costs, compounded by widespread unemployment and a fragile economy. The government must act decisively to protect its people. This means enforcing price controls, ensuring transparent distribution of imports, and expanding subsidies for essential commodities.

Citizens cannot afford fuel at current rates and their appeals for relief reflect a broader truth, without urgent intervention, rising fuel prices will deepen poverty, erode public trust, and risk social unrest.

Islamic Emirate's relevant institutions should recognize that stabilizing fuel prices is not simply an economic issue, it is a matter of social justice and national stability. The government must prioritize the needs of its citizens, ensuring that no family is forced to choose between warmth, food, and survival.

# How Cross-Border Freight Expansion Redefines Afghanistan's Socio-Economic Landscape

*By: Mashal Noori*

In the strategic city of Mashhad, a quiet but profound geopolitical recalibration took place recently. Officials from Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan gathered to sign a trilateral agreement focused on international transit and road freight cooperation. While the document is technical in its language—covering customs protocols and transit corridors—its implications are deeply human, signaling a collective effort to transform one of the world's most rugged landscapes into a viable economic bridge.

For decades, the borders separating these three nations have been defined more by barriers than by bridges. Afghanistan, often referred to as the "Heart of Asia," has great potential to capitalize on its strategic location, despite facing past challenges.

However, the meeting in Mashhad reflects a shift in perspective. By bringing together Reza Akbari of Iran, Shayesteh Saeed moradzadeh of Tajikistan, and Yar Mohammad Ramazan of Afghanistan, the three nations have acknowledged a simple truth: their economic futures are inextricably linked by geography.

From an analytical standpoint, this agreement is a masterclass in regional pragmatism. For Tajikistan, a landlocked nation looking to reduce its dependence on northern routes, the path south through Afghanistan to Iranian ports represents a shorter, more cost-effective gateway to global markets. For Iran, the agreement strengthens its "Look to the East" policy, positioning its transit infrastructure as the primary artery for Central Asian trade.

The most significant takeaway from the Mashhad summit is the formal recognition of Afghanistan as a transit lynchpin. The participation of Yar Mohammad Ramazan, representing Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, highlights the country's pivot toward "geo-economics." For the Afghan people, this isn't just about logistics; it's about survival and growth. If Afghanistan can successfully facilitate the movement of goods between the manufacturing hubs of Iran and the resource-rich markets of Tajikistan, it stands to strengthen its economy and emerge as a regional trade hub. This transition would create a "multiplier effect"—generating revenue through transit fees, creating jobs at border crossings, and fostering the growth of roadside businesses, from warehouses to workshops.

To analyze this agreement purely through the lens of macroeconomics would be to miss the humanized reality of the project. International road transport is a grueling profession. Drivers currently face inconsistent regulations, lengthy border delays, and bureaucratic red tape that can turn a three-day journey into a three-week ordeal.

The agreement signed in Mashhad specifically targets these "soft infrastructure" challenges. By promoting "closer coordination in the field of international road transport," the three governments are essentially promising to make life easier for

See P4

# The Forgotten History: Contributions of Muslims to Modern Science

**By: Romal Sayedi**

*Part I*

According to the famous scientist Albert Einstein, "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Likewise, Francis Bacon, a renowned philosopher, rightly said that a little knowledge of science makes you an atheist (somebody who does not believe in God), but an in-depth study of science makes you a believer in God.

A critical analysis reveals that most of Muslim scientists and scholars during the 'Golden Age of Islam' (750 – 1257) were also eminent scholars of Islam and theology. Philosophers, scientists and engineers of the Islamic world contributed immensely to scientific knowledge, cultural arts, civilization and architecture.

For any scientific knowledge to be developed there needs to be certain institutional arrangements, economic conditions, and cultural values that stimulate scientific inquiry. For the early Muslim empire, these institutions of learning arose among a diverse territorial and population expanse.

Some of the reasons why scientific activity began emerging in the early Muslim world were:

Islam encouraged learning of science: The unique characteristic of the rise of Islamic sciences is that religion and science were not considered to be in opposition with each other. Muslim scholars have continuously proven that the Qur'an itself promotes scientific inquiry and encourages the Ummah to seek knowledge. Some of the verses of the Qur'an and Hadith which have been used by Muslim scientists to justify their scientific inquiry include: "Surely, In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the alternation of the night and the day, in the sailing of the ships through the ocean for the profit of mankind; in the rain which Allah sends down from the skies, with which He revives the earth after its death and spreads in it all kinds of animals, in the change of the winds and the clouds between the sky and the earth that are made subservient, there are signs for rational people." (Qur'an 2:164)

"Indeed in the alternation of the night and the day and what Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, there are signs for those who are God fearing." (Qur'an 10:6)

"And he subjected to you, as from Him, all that is in the Heavens and on Earth: Behold in that are signs indeed for those who reflect." (Qur'an 45:13)

"A believer never stops seeking for knowledge until he enters Paradise." (Tirmidhi)

"Seeking knowledge is a duty on every Muslim." (Bukhari)

Hence, it is no surprise to see early Muslim scholars who were dealing with different sciences. They were aware that there was much more to be discovered. They did not have the precise details of the solar and lunar orbits, but they knew that there was something extremely meaningful behind the alternation of the day and the night and in the precise movements of the sun and the moon as mentioned in Qur'an. The Islamic prayer, which was required to be in the direction of Mecca, generated curiosity in geography. The observation of Ramadan for thirty days of the year required Muslims to acquire knowledge in astronomy. The ablution process of Muslims before they stand for prayer and conduct other religious ceremonies prompted early Muslim scientists to examine hygiene and dietary habits. The learning and application of arithmetic was necessary for dividing inheritances according to Islamic law and keeping exact time of the day in order to observe prayer.

See P4

# Afghanistan: New Tax Relief Measures to Encourage Domestic Investment

**By: Mashal Noori**

Afghanistan Ministry of Finance (MoF) has recently announced new tax relief measures approved in four areas, including reduced income tax for companies and private healthcare centres, an increased tax exemption threshold for individuals, lower taxes on goods transportation and revised fuel taxes. Announcing the new tax relief measures in a program held early this week, Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs said the new tax reductions had been approved based on an order from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) leadership covering legal entities, individuals, goods transportation and fuel sectors, adding that except for mining extraction companies, all other legal entities, including companies and private healthcare centres, would now pay 10 percent income tax, down from the previous 20 percent.

Based on the new tax relief measures, the tax exemption threshold doubled as previously, individuals with annual incomes of up to 60,000 afghanis were exempt from tax, but the limit has now been raised to 120,000 afghanis. With the new relief measures, individuals with annual incomes between 120,000 and 1.2 million afghanis will pay 10 percent tax, while those earning more than 1.2 million afghanis annually will be subject to 15 percent tax. According to the new measures, the tax on goods transportation had also been reduced from 1 percent to 0.5 percent. Regarding fuel taxes, companies importing gas and oil in bulk will be required to pay a fixed tax of 50 afghanis per tonne of oil sold, and first-hand fuel and gas sellers will pay 100,000 afghanis annually, second-hand sellers 70,000 afghanis, third-hand sellers 50,000 afghanis, and fourth-hand sellers 25,000 afghanis in fixed taxes.

In the meantime, Finance Minister of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Mohammad Nasir Akhund by pointing to the new tax relief measures said his ministry was focused not only on revenue collection, effective management of public financial resources and maintaining economic stability, but also on implementing financial policies aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth and investment.

He asserted that the Finance Ministry was committed to creating further tax-related facilities for citizens, industrialists and traders, adding that tax exemptions were not only forms of relief but also important economic policy tools that encourage investment, increase production and exports, and create new employment opportunities.

The Islamic Emirate leadership has mad continued efforts towards providing all necessary possibilities for the economic development in the country.

The recent tax relief measures and reduction in taxes has been also a practical example of this policy. When the costs of traders and importers are reduced, the impact on market prices is also evident. It is expected that there will be a significant reduction in the prices of petroleum products and many food items and the common people will benefit from them. The main purpose of this decision is to reduce the living costs of the people and make it easier for them to meet their daily needs. The new tax relief measures have also given a significant opportunity to the private sector, meaning that the new measures will further encourage domestic investment in the country.

The more investment is made by private sector, the more job opportunities will be created. In the meantime, the production and exports will increase, which will help develop the country's economy in coming months.

# Balkh's Export Surge and Afghanistan's Rising Economy

**By: Atiqa Arian**

The first quarter of the current solar year has brought encouraging news for Afghanistan's economy, particularly in Balkh Province. Officials at the Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Investment reported that exports from the province surged to more than $67 million, a figure over three times higher than the $21 million recorded during the same period last year. This remarkable growth reflects both the resilience of Afghan traders and the expanding opportunities created through regional cooperation.

Carpets, Karakul pelts, and fresh and dried fruits remain Balkh's primary export products. These traditional goods, deeply tied to Afghan craftsmanship and agriculture, are now reaching wider markets across Central Asia and beyond.

Ahmad Shakib Akbari, executive director of the Balkh Chamber, noted that exports in the first quarter of 1405 showed a 67 percent increase compared to last year, underscoring the impact of improved trade facilitation and regional agreements.

Officials attribute this success to strengthened partnerships with neighboring countries. Haroon Rashid Qazi, deputy head of the Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Investment, emphasized that agreements with Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and India have been crucial in opening new corridors, reducing logistical barriers, and creating more predictable trade flows.

Uzbekistan's Surxondaryo Province also reported significant trade activity with Afghanistan. During the first five months of the year, Uzbekistan exported goods worth $51 million to Afghanistan, while Afghanistan exported goods worth $81 million, covering more than 200 different products. This balanced exchange highlights the mutual benefits of regional trade and the growing interdependence between Afghanistan and its neighbors.

Local traders, while optimistic, have called for further support to sustain this momentum. They stress the need for lower tariffs, stronger marketing strategies, and opportunities to hold trade exhibitions and direct meetings with foreign businesspeople. Trader Mohammad Popal explained that Afghan products require better promotion and direct access to foreign buyers, which would not only boost exports but also strengthen Afghanistan's reputation as a reliable trading partner.

The success story of Balkh is part of a broader trend. Other provinces such as Herat, Nangarhar, and Kandahar have also reported rising exports in recent years. Herat's saffron, Nangarhar's citrus fruits, and Kandahar's pomegranates are increasingly sought after in regional and global markets. Together, these provinces showcase Afghanistan's diverse agricultural and industrial potential.

The growing export figures reflect Afghanistan's gradual positioning as a regional trade hub. The northern routes, especially through Central Asia, are considered the safest and most reliable corridors for Afghan traders. This stability is crucial for building long-term economic confidence.

Afghanistan's economy has faced immense challenges over the past decades, but the recent surge in exports offers genuine hope. The achievements in Balkh demonstrate that with proper facilitation, agreements, and marketing, Afghan products can compete successfully in international markets. The fact that exports have tripled compared to last year is not just a statistical improvement, it is a sign of resilience, adaptability, and the entrepreneurial spirit of Afghan traders.

Looking ahead, Afghanistan has the potential to expand its export base even further. By focusing on diversification of products, investment in logistics, and deeper regional integration, the country can transform its economy from one reliant on imports to one driven by exports.

The surge in Balkh's exports is a source of pride and optimism. It shows that Afghanistan's provinces, when supported by effective trade policies and regional cooperation, can achieve remarkable economic growth. The success of Balkh should inspire other provinces to strengthen production, improve quality standards, and seek new markets abroad. Afghanistan's growing economic ties with Central Asia and beyond are not just about trade, they are about building stability, prosperity, and hope for the future.

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# SPORTS

## Afghanistan Sports Officials, Olympic Federations Unite to Boost National Sports Development

The Technical and Professional Directorate of Afghanistan's General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports held a coordination meeting with representatives of the country's Olympic sports federations in Kabul, aiming to strengthen cooperation and improve the development of national sports.

The meeting was chaired by Mohammad Yousuf Eftekhar, Director of the Technical and Professional Directorate, and brought together presidents and representatives of various Olympic federations. Participants exchanged views on a range of important issues, including the overall growth of sports, support for athletes, the distribution of sports equipment, and ways to improve coordination between the sports administration and the federations.

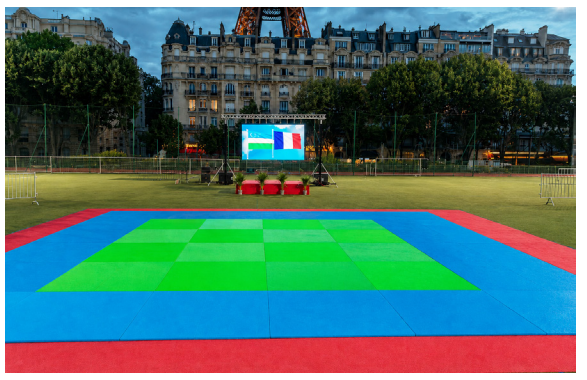
Speaking at the meeting, Eftekhar emphasized the importance of better planning and closer cooperation to build a stronger relationship of trust between the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports and the Olympic federations. He said the administration is committed to addressing the federations' concerns in a timely manner and ensuring that communication remains open and productive.

He also stressed the need for all Olympic federations to be registered in a dedicated database to improve organization and management. In addition, he noted that a special committee will continue its work on developing a fair quota system for athlete allowances.

Concluding the meeting, Eftekhar assured federation representatives that similar coordination sessions would be held regularly to resolve challenges, enhance collaboration, and support the continued growth of sports across Afghanistan.

**The Kabul Times**

## Javid Jawhari to Represent Afghanistan in High-Stakes International Kurash Showdown



All eyes in the Afghan Kurash community are on Paris as the city hosts the prestigious Uzbekistan President's Cup International Kurash Tournament from July 17 to 19. Among the athletes competing on the international stage is Afghanistan's talented Kurash fighter, Javid Jawhari, who will proudly represent his country against some of the world's best competitors.

Since becoming a permanent fixture in Paris in 2022, the tournament has grown into one of the most respected events on the international Kurash calendar. This year's competition will bring together top athletes from more than 20 countries, competing in the 90kg and Open Weight divisions.

For Jawhari, this tournament is more than just another competition. It is the result of years of hard work, determination, and dedication to the sport. It also carries special meaning, as he follows in the footsteps of the late Ismail Kakar, one of Afghanistan's most celebrated Kurash athletes. At last year's tournament, Kakar made history by winning a silver medal in the 90kg category, earning Afghanistan one of its greatest achievements in international Kurash. His remarkable performance inspired many young athletes and demonstrated that Afghan competitors can successfully challenge the world's elite. This year, Johari hopes to honor Kakar's legacy with a strong performance of his own.

As the tournament begins, Jawhari will face tough opponents from around the world in a sport that demands exceptional strength, balance, technique, and tactical awareness. Regardless of the outcome, his participation is another proud moment for Afghan sport and a reflection of the resilience and determination of the country's athletes.

Supporters across Afghanistan and among the Afghan diaspora will be following his journey with great anticipation, hoping to see the national flag raised once again on the international stage in Paris. **The Kabul Times**

## Argentina Set to Face Spain After Heroic Semi-Final Win Over England

The dream of global dominance remains alive for Argentina. In a high-stakes semi-final that lived up to its historic billing, the Albiceleste secured their place in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final by edging out England in a 2-1 thriller.

It was a match defined by tactical grit and moments of pure magic, leaving fans breathless as Argentina once again proved why they belong at the pinnacle of the sport.

This expanded tournament, co-hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico, has been an emotional marathon since it kicked off on June 11th with a record 48 nations.

Now, after weeks of intense drama across North America, the stage is finally set for a blockbuster grand finale. Argentina is slated to face a formidable Spanish side in a clash of footballing titans.

The world's eyes will turn to the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey this Sunday, July 19th. As the tournament reaches its crescendo, the atmosphere in the New York metropolitan area promises to be electric.

Whether Argentina defends their crown or Spain ascends to the throne, Sunday's final marks the end of a truly unforgettable journey. For football lovers, the "Beautiful Game" has never felt more alive.

**The Kabul Times**

# UN Delegation Discusses Technical Education Cooperation in Bamyan

KABUL: A United Nations delegation met with officials of the Technical and Vocational Education Authority in Bamyan Province to discuss educational needs, institutional development, and continued international support for technical and vocational training.

The delegation, led by Bruno Lemarquis, the UN Deputy Special Representative and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, met with Shah Wali Ahmadi, head of Technical and Vocational Education in Bamyan, RTA reported on Friday.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the situation of vocational education centers, particularly the Special Technical High School in Bamyan, and discussed the needs of students and educational institutions.

The UN delegation reaffirmed its commitment to supporting educational and humanitarian initiatives in the province.

Ahmadi called for expanded cooperation from international organizations in completing infrastructure projects, strengthening vocational education centers, upgrading electrical and construction training programs, and creating greater employment opportunities for young people.

The UN delegation is also scheduled to visit technical education projects and training centers in Bamyan, including facilities in the districts of Panjab and Waras, as part of its ongoing assessment of educational programs in the province.

**The Kabul Times**

# Shaikh Nadim Stresses Equal Access to Nationwide Healthcare

KABUL: The country's Minister of Higher Education Shaikh Neda Mohammad Nadim has stressed the importance of ensuring equal access to quality healthcare services across Afghanistan, saying the country is working to strengthen specialized medical facilities to better serve patients nationwide.

Speaking during an inspection of Afghanistan's largest comprehensive cancer diagnosis and treatment center at Aliabad Teaching Hospital of Kabul University of Medical Sciences, Nadim said Afghans deserve access to high-quality healthcare without having to travel abroad for treatment, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.

He noted that once completed, the center will provide advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment services inside the country, benefiting patients while also creating valuable practical training opportunities for medical students and healthcare professionals.

During the visit, Nadim reviewed the project's progress and asked the responsible officials to expedite the remaining phases. He also emphasised the importance of recruiting qualified technical specialists, including experts from abroad if necessary, to ensure the centre operates in accordance with modern medical standards.

According to the statement, construction of the two-story facility has been completed for 417 million Afghanis, and the second phase of the project, which involves equipping the center with modern medical equipment, has made significant progress.

A total of 964 million Afghanis has been allocated for radiology and oncology equipment, while an additional 110 million Afghanis has been approved for procuring other medical equipment, with the contracting process expected to begin soon, the statement said.

The hospital currently provides cancer vaccination and surgical services, while the new center will also offer radiotherapy services, significantly expanding cancer treatment capacity in Afghanistan.

**The Kabul Times**

# How Cross-Border Freight Expansion...

From P2

the thousands of individuals who keep the regional supply chain moving. Facilitating international transit means fewer nights spent by drivers at isolated border posts and more predictable delivery times for the merchants waiting in the bazaars of Dushanbe or Herat. Despite the optimistic tone of the officials, several hurdles remain. The success of this trilateral initiative depends on three variables: security, infrastructure quality, and political willpower. While the "shared commitment" mentioned by the officials is a strong start, the reality of maintaining safe and efficient transit corridors across some of the world's highest mountain passes is a daunting task. Furthermore, the standardization of legal frameworks between three different administrative systems requires a level of sustained technical cooperation that has historically been difficult to maintain.

The trilateral agreement in Mashhad is more than a trade pact; it is a blueprint for regional self-reliance. By leveraging their shared cultural and linguistic ties, Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan are attempting to solve regional problems with regional solutions.

As goods begin to move more freely along these corridors, the hope is that the "Mashhad Mandate" will prove that connectivity is the best antidote to isolation. If these three neighbors can truly turn their borders into gateways, they will not only enhance their own economic resilience but will also provide a much-needed stabilize force for the broader Central and South Asian region. The road ahead is long, but in Mashhad, the first stones have been laid.

# The Forgotten History: Contributions...

From P3

As a result of this, many of the great scientists of Islamic civilization were also religious scholars. For example, Ibn Al-Shatir was one of the greatest astronomers in the Muslim world; he was also the official time-keeper in the Ummayad mosque in Damascus. Another example is that of Ibn Rushd, known as Averroes in Latin, who was a great philosopher and also a religious judge in Spain.

Territorial expansion and contact with different cultures and societies. The early Muslim empire expanded very rapidly during the 7th and 8thcenturies. Muslims came in contact with the cultural and scientific traditions of the societies it took over into its domain. This constituted mainly of the Persian, Sassanid, and Byzantine empires, which were largely disintegrating empires at the time. These empires had scientific knowledge which the Muslims borrowed from and later went on to develop their own contributions. The Caliphs' patronage and support of the sciences: The Caliphal support of scientific activity was another driving force for Muslim scientists to pursue knowledge in the sciences. With the ascension of power by the Ummayad Caliphate at the end of the 7th century and later Abbasid Caliphate in the 8th century, the support for scientific inquiry began to pick up steam. Since the Caliphs were regarded as the ultimate ruler of the Muslim Ummah, it was upon their motivation that society developed positive cultural values in support of scientific learning. One example of this can be found in the Abbasid era Caliph Al-Mamun (813 – 833). It was he who developed a keen interest in foreign cultures, sending delegations of scholars to Asia Minor and Cyprus to bring back Greek books. He also arranged measurements of the diameter of the earth and sent out groups of scientists to investigate the geographic locations of various events described in the Qur'an. Later Caliphs continued to support scientists in their search for knowledge. They built libraries and observatories and employed scientists, who were often bureaucrats, to find answers to different scientific questions.